

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

(of SRC meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 1992
at 10:00 A.M., in Room BC-110, SGW campus)

ATTENDANCE -

Members present: V. Baba, P. Bird, D. Ginter, J.N. Lightstone (Chair), D. Marklewicz, T.S. Sankar, P. Shizgal, A. Williams, C. Zucker, Evelyn Loo (Secretary)

Guest: John Relton

Absent with regrets: U. De Brentani, R. Parker, S. Sankar.

Absent: E. Doedel, M. Haque, J. Surette, A. Zaidi.

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE In advance

SRC-03-19-92-D164 Memorandum from John Noonan to Dr. C. Bertrand with respect to "Expert Task Force on the Enhancement of University-Wide Research Support Services and Facilities.

SRC-03-19-92-D165 Memorandum from John Noonan to Dr. J. Lightstone with respect to 1992-93 Provisional Operating Budget and the Proposed Capital Budget for 1992/93.

SRC-03-19-92-D166 Concordia University, 1992-93 Provisional Operating Budget.

SRC-03-19-92-D167 Concordia University, Proposed Capital Budget for 1992/93 (Draft February 14, 1992).

At Meeting

SRC-03-19-92-D168 Memorandum from J. Lightstone to John Noonan with respect to Provisional Budgets 1992-93.

SRC-03-19-92-D169 Letter of February 27, 1992, from Paule Leduc, President, SSHRC, re: Merging of SSHRC and the Canada Council.

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
At Meeting

SRC-03-19-92-D170 Communiqué from Medical Research Council of Canada on Strategic Planning (Update No. 1, February 1992).

Dr. Jack N. Lightstone occupied the Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Chair thanked Mr. John Relton for having kindly accepted to join us at the SRC Meeting.

1.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by the Committee.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair noted that the Minutes for the last meetings have not been edited yet, but will be available at the next meeting.

3.0 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair informed Committee members that at the last Senate Meeting the establishment for the SRC's resolutions concerning the establishment of a task force to develop a plan to upgrade university-wide research support facilities passed unanimously with the following amendments:

- a second student, representing undergraduate students, was added to the committee's membership,
- a representative of the part-time faculty was added to the committee's membership.

The SRC should feed to that Committee as soon as possible their own suggestions.

Chair has asked P. Shizgal, D. Ginter, and P. Bird if they could constitute an ad hoc group to provide some suggestions which the SRC might consider at the next meeting as the SRC's input to the task force in question.

3.0 REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair noted that there is considerable concern regarding the announced merger of the Canada Council and the SSHRC. In particular the chair voiced apprehension concerning whether the values and culture of the SSHRC would be carried over to the new agency.

a concern that if the directorship of the new merger is coloured by the value of the old value of the Canada Council rather than the value of SSHRC, that there will be insufficient receptivity to the reality of university base researchers face. He would like to express this concern by praising the abolition in terms of culture of SSHRC that occurred over the past decade and somehow the evolution evolved to another tract as a result. This merger should in no way affect funding for research previously available under both organisation and indeed make a strong link between them.

Some discussion of the implications of the merger took place.

It was decided that the Associate-Vice Rector, Academic (Research) and the Dean (Acting) of Graduate Studies should draft a letter expressing some of the concerns raised. This letter might be sent to various offices in Ottawa and tabled for information at the upcoming meeting of the Quebec Deans of Graduate Studies, who might wish to develop a joint statement.

4.0 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, ORS

A.J. Williams gave a quick summary of the NSERC results, there is an increase of 4% in funding for 1992-93, that is an additional amount of \$5.6M. Nationally, there were 900 new applicants and only 200 of those who had previously applied to NSERC did not reapply this year.

Generally funding from NSERC for Concordia researchers has increased as per the reports available at this time:
Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science -- up 5.3%
Faculty of Arts and Science -- up 5.5%
Faculty of Commerce and Administration (primarily DISMIS) -- up 25%

8 of our new applicants to NSERC have got an FRDP grant

Since FRDP has started, the number of applications to SSHRC has virtually doubled; no results are available at this time from SSHRC.

5.0 THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF BREACHES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

The Chair has invited John Relton, Code Administrator, to discuss with the SRC the question of the establishment of procedures to deal with allegations of scientific misconduct.

John Relton informed Committee members about the time that the MRC distributed its draft discussion paper on procedures for dealing with breaches in Scientific Integrity he recommended to the Vice-Rector, Academic that the University establish some sort of criteria and procedures to handle complaints regarding scientific fraud; Mr Relton informed the SRC that he had already gone to a meeting to the Office of the Rector to highlight what he thought were the major problems facing the University in this regard. He noted that there is currently no code of academic conduct which in fact covers faculty members.

During the discussion with Mr. Relton three matters came to the fore:

- any procedural document must clearly define what constitutes scientific misconduct for the purposes of the procedures to be adopted to deal with allegations of misconduct.
- the procedures must allow for appeals at each of its various stages.
- the procedures must concern themselves with adequately protecting the reputations of both the accused and the accuser.

The SRC supported a two stage process of inquiry. In the initial stage a standing committee would consider whether the evidence at hand warranted a full inquiry, to be carried out by a special ad hoc committee established to deal with the particular case.

The SRC also voiced concern that the procedures should discourage in some fashion frivolous allegations.

It was decided that the Chair should draft a procedural document which might serve as a basis for further comment and discussion by the SRC as well as by Mr. Relton and Mtre. Michelle Gammache.

6.0 1992-1993 Provisional Operating Budget and Proposed Capital Budget for 1992-1993

The SRC approved a draft response to the budget documents.

7.0 Varia

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 1992 at 10:00 a.m. in BC-110.

9.0 Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.